REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are now pending in the application. Claims 1-21 are rejected. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tang et al. (ConNexus Awarenex: Extending awareness to mobile users, by John C. Tang, et al. March 4, 2001) in view of Manabe et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,584,494). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In order to more fully distinguish Applicant's invention, claim 1 has been amended to include, in part, "a schedule publication element configured to acquire schedule information associated with a plurality of users" and "a schedule subscribing element configured to subscribe users to automatically receive notifications regarding schedule information." Dependent claim 3 has been amended to comply with the amendments made to claim 1.

Applicant's invention is generally directed towards a server-based architecture that manages and disseminates presence and availability schedules derived from a schedule publication element or calendar service. (paragraph 17) Schedule information about multiple users is automatically disseminated to multiple users who subscribe to the information. (paragraph 3) The server-based architecture can be provided in addition to currently known instant messaging presence protocols and systems. (paragraph 16)

In contrast, Tang's teachings are generally directed towards a desktop prototype that facilitates communication between users via instant messaging. (page 221) The prototype is meant to be a stand-alone application that runs on computer desktops, mobile devices, and conventional telephones. (page 221) At best Tang's teachings suggest multiple desktop prototypes that communicate user information to one another via communication tools. (page 222) Each desktop prototype manages information about its own user and communicates the information upon request to another user. (page 222) No where does Tang show teach or suggest a server-based architecture that manages and automatically disseminates presence and availability schedules of multiple users to multiple users who subscribe to the information as does Applicant's invention.

Furthermore, it would not be obvious to one skilled in the art to include in Tang's teachings a datastore that stores integrated schedule information. A datastore that stores integrated schedule information would not be necessary in Tang's desktop prototype because schedule information about multiple users (or an integrated schedule) is not processed, managed, or disseminated by the desktop prototype.

Moreover, Manabe's teachings are generally directed towards a client-server method and system for promoting smooth communications in a chat system. (Col 1, lines 7-16) Manabe's registry method does not suggest a subscription service that allows a user to register or subscribe oneself to automatically receive notifications regarding schedule information that is derived from a calendar service. At best, Manabe's registration service allows users to register keywords that may be used by a status detection module to judge the users status (Col 6, lines 51-67). According to

Manabe, a user registers the keywords once, allowing other users to initiate a request to receive status information via the keywords. (Col 6, lines) For example, a keyword is registered by a user such as a nickname. When the keyword is entered by another user when attempting to communicate with the first user, the keyword is used by a detection module to detect the proper status of the user. (Col 7, lines 4-8) The status of the user can be "absent," "working," or "responding." (Col 7, lines 1,2) The status is determined from activity on the user's terminal. (Col 7, lines 9-21) The status is not derived from a schedule publication element or calendar service.

If however, Manabe did disclose a schedule subscribing element configured to subscribe users to automatically receive notifications regarding schedule information, it would not be obvious to one skilled in the art to include a schedule subscribing element in Tang's desktop prototype as it would not be necessary to subscribe to one's own desktop application. A central server that manages subscriptions would be necessary to facilitate subscription. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 2-21 are dependent on claim 1 and for the reasons set forth above, distinguish over the cited art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: Greg Stobbs
Gregory A. Stobbs
Reg. No. 28,764

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

GAS:vm